

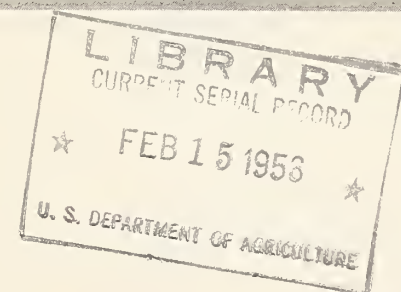
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1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES



Summer Potatoes

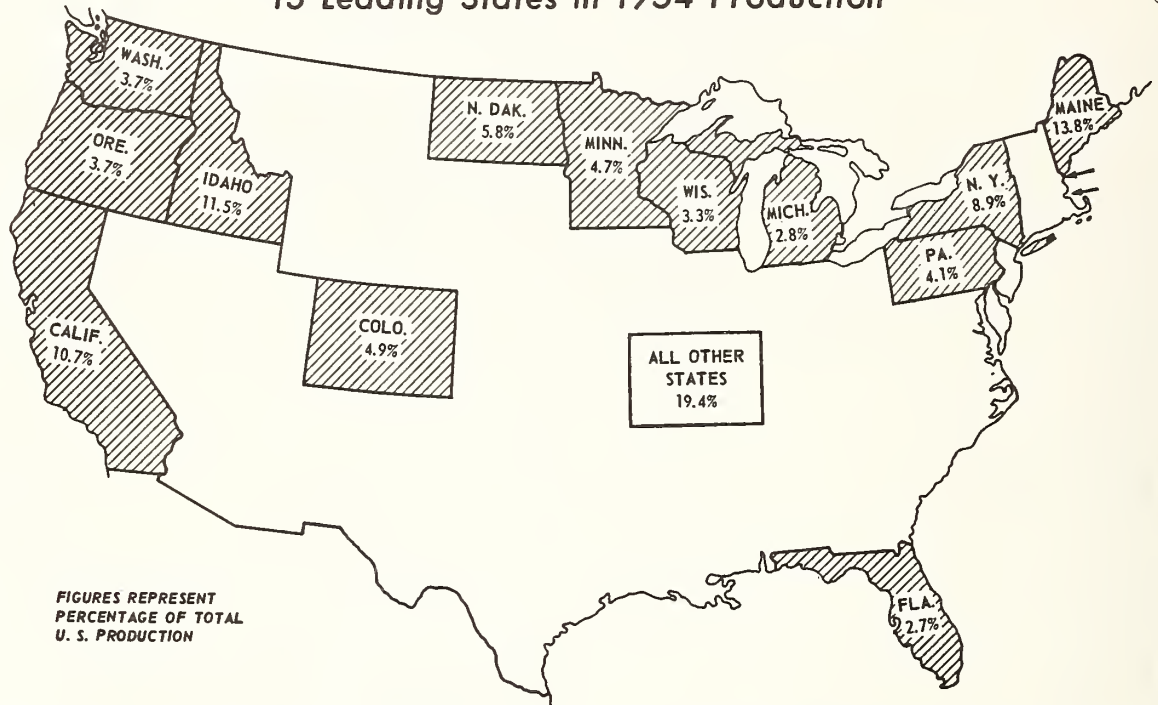


Late Potatoes

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service

MAJOR POTATO PRODUCING AREAS

13 Leading States in 1954 Production



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1836-55(9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Every State produces potatoes, but production is concentrated in the northern tier of States, and in turn in relatively small areas within these States. Better known areas of production include Aroostook County, Maine; Kern County, California; Snake River area of Idaho; Long Island and Steuben County, New York; Red River Valley area of Minnesota and North Dakota; Greeley and San Luis Valley areas of Colorado; Yakima Valley and Moses Lake areas of Washington; Klamath Basin and Malheur County, Oregon; Baldwin County, Alabama; and the Ft. Myer, Hastings, and Dade County areas of Florida. New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina also have areas of concentrated production. Potatoes are harvested every month of the year, with the bulk harvested during late summer and early fall. Florida is the main source of winter and early spring "new" potatoes.

The acreage-marketing guides program for potatoes is directed toward balancing the supply with the demand. The program is an attempt by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide the best possible estimates of the acreage required, with average yields, to supply the quantity deemed necessary to meet the market need anticipated for the coming season.

The guide report is prepared by specialists who follow the market for potatoes closely throughout the year and develop a record of happenings in the various markets, with explanations for unusual occurrences. On the basis of the latest and best available information, specific recommendations are developed for each State. Recognition is given to trends, both in recent years and for long time periods. Also, any abnormalities of preceding seasons are considered carefully. However, the recommendations are based upon the assumption that average conditions will prevail in the following season. The acreage recommendation is presented in terms of a percentage change from the acreage for the preceding year, so as to permit each individual grower to apply this percentage-change recommendation to his individual operations. The recommendations are reviewed before publication by representatives of various agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

The information is presented to the grower in sufficient time for him to consider the facts as he develops his plans for the forthcoming season. The fundamental concept behind the guide program is that, given the best information possible, the grower will make intelligent decisions for his and the industry's best interest. Compliance with the guides on the part of growers is voluntary.

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I. SUMMARY OF ADJUSTMENTS

The primary purpose of acreage guides is to bring about a needed percentage change in acreage from that of the preceding year. Acreages for potatoes reported by the Crop Reporting Board are estimates, and are necessarily subject to revision as subsequent check data become more completely available. A grower almost certainly knows the acreage of potatoes planted on his farm in 1955. Each individual grower, therefore, may adjust his own acreage in accordance with the published guides. If it is recommended that a State plant 95 percent as much acreage as in 1955, this is to be interpreted as a 5 percent cut from acreage of last season. The grower in this particular State who planted 40 acres last year would plant 38 acres in 1956, assuming his share of the 5 percent cut recommended.

II. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEMAND FOR GOODS AND SERVICES IN 1956

Prospective trends in economic activity suggest that while expansion in some segments may level off, notably housing and durable goods, consumer incomes available per person after taxes, will continue high. These high incomes are expected to result in a strong domestic market for goods and services in general. Also, most foreign countries are in an improved financial position and economic activity and world trade are at record levels. Moreover, there are several government surplus sales programs designed to expand shipments of U. S. farm products. The volume of farm products exported in 1954-55 was up 12 percent from a year earlier and this improved level should be maintained in 1956.

Economic activity expanded rapidly during 1955. The gross product of the economy in the last half of the year was about 8-1/2 percent above the same period of 1954 with most of the increase due to strength in consumer buying. Higher employment, a longer work week, and rising wage rates contributed to a record flow of income to consumers. Income available per person after taxes in the last half of 1955 was 5 percent above a year earlier. In addition to rising income, increased use of credit added materially to consumer buying of durable goods and housing.

Almost all major industries increased investment spending during 1955. Estimated business capital outlays in the final quarter of 1955 were at an annual rate of nearly 31 billion dollars, about a sixth above a year earlier. Further increases are scheduled for the first quarter and a recent survey of investment plans for the coming year points to a continued expansion in business investment outlays in 1956. Residential building has declined moderately since the spring of 1955 but outlays for new homes are expected to be well maintained in the coming year. A further moderate rise in business investment in inventories is in prospect if economic activity expands as expected. Government purchases of goods and services also are likely to rise in the coming year especially outlays by State and local governments for schools, highways, and other facilities.

The prospects for continued high levels of economic activity point to a sustained market for goods and services, including food. However, prospects for slightly higher average costs of processing and marketing farm products in 1956, reflecting in part increased consumer demand for additional services, may tend to moderate the effect of high incomes on the demand for many farm products. Moreover, the demand for potatoes does not conform to the pattern of demand for a great many farm products. Consequently, we must examine more closely the demand for this product.

DEMAND FOR SUMMER AND LATE POTATOES IN 1956

While a given quantity of potatoes will bring better prices if incomes are high, changes in potato production have much more influence on prices than do changes in incomes. Even with favorable economic conditions in 1956, the demand for summer and late potatoes is not likely to differ much from that of 1955. Prices received by farmers, compared with a year earlier, will depend largely on the volume produced and marketed. Production much in excess of guide recommendations would be expected to result in relatively low prices.

III. PRODUCTION AND MARKETING MATERIALS AND FACILITIES

All farm equipment and operating supplies required for the production, processing, packaging, and distribution of vegetables during the last half of 1956 are expected to be readily available.

Farm Machinery and Operating Supplies. Farm machinery and equipment manufacturers stepped up production in 1955 over the output in 1954. This additional production not only was sufficient to take care of increased sales in 1955, but also placed dealers in a somewhat better inventory position at the start of 1956. Despite the tight raw material situation, manufacturers appear to be in a position to maintain an output sufficient to satisfy all needs. No shortages are anticipated in other production and operating supplies, such as fuels, trucks, implement and truck tires.

Fertilizer. Supplies of all fertilizer materials will be ample to meet expected demands. If orders are placed early, any type of material desired should be obtainable. Trends are still strong toward the use of granulated high-analysis mixed fertilizers and ammonia as sources of nitrogen.

Pesticides. Supplies of insecticides, fungicides, and weed killers generally, will be ample to meet 1956 needs. As in other years, however, unusually severe infestations might result in temporary or local shortages of particular chemicals. Users of pesticides can protect themselves and contribute to efficient distribution of available stocks by placing orders early for at least minimum needs.

Production of synthetic organic insecticides, such as DDT, methoxychlor, aldrin and parathion, is in reasonable balance with demand. Imports of

rotenone and pyrethrum are now sufficiently high to assure fairly good supplies.

Production capacity for soil fumigants and organic fungicides is large enough to provide adequate supplies at least, if recommended alternate chemicals are accepted in case of shortages. Weed killer chemicals are in growing demand but production is meeting requirements in most cases.

Containers. Supplies of all types of containers for the summer and fall vegetable crop are expected to be adequate.

The packaging industry is geared to meet any expanded requirements for new or improved types and the outlook for basic materials is good for 1956 summer and fall vegetables.

Manpower. The over-all supply of farm laborers in 1956 is expected to be adequate to meet needs. Even though current high levels of employment continue, the supply of seasonal workers is expected to be about the same as in 1955. The supply of experienced year-round workers, however, is expected to continue tight. Therefore, improvement of employment conditions must keep pace with non-farm jobs. This includes adequate housing and more continuity of employment in order to enable agriculture to attract and hold key-experienced workers.

More effective recruitment and fuller utilization of the domestic-work force are assured when planning is done in close cooperation with Employment Service offices. This is especially important in those areas using large numbers of migratory workers. These offices also are in a position to arrange for employment, under contract, of off-shore, domestic and foreign labor if local and migrant labor supplies prove inadequate. The prospective supply of labor from these outside sources appears adequate to meet needs that may develop.

Transportation: Ample facilities should be available for transporting the production from the recommended acreage of 1956 summer and fall potatoes. Any shortages which may occur should be of a temporary nature.

The rail transportation outlook for the 1956 summer and fall seasons is similar to the situation which existed during 1955. The supply of refrigerator cars suitable for handling fresh fruits and vegetables increased slightly during the past year. The Association of American Railroads reports 3,047 new refrigerator cars were installed and 2,871 retired during the twelve-month period ending November 30, 1955. If weather conditions permit normal patterns of production and loading in 1956, the car supply should be ample. The Association of American Railroads and the car lines continue to watch the distribution of refrigerator cars closely and, as far as possible, maintain adequate supplies in the various shipping areas.

Manufacture of trucks, trailers, and tires continues at a normal rate, and supplies are expected to be adequate.

IV. SURPLUS REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Compliance with potato acreage marketing guides is voluntary. The Department, therefore, does not commit itself to provide any assistance in disposing of excess supplies which may occur during any crop year. By providing growers with the necessary information, the Department expects that potato acreage can be adjusted so as to bring supplies in balance with demand and avoid marketing difficulties. Before planting time, growers should take every precautionary measure possible to assure themselves of available marketing outlets for their potato production.

Experience has demonstrated that potato producing areas which have available or have taken steps to provide local outlets for excess supplies consisting of culls and other low-grade potatoes, assure themselves of a valuable price stabilizer. Growers and others associated with the marketing of potatoes are counseled to avail themselves of adequate local outlets for low-grade potatoes. The Department stands ready to provide guidance and suggestions for such endeavors.

V. 1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

In recent years potato supplies have tended to be in excess of market requirements. Annual food and seed requirements remain relatively stable. Demand for table stock potatoes does not materially increase or decrease in response to moderate changes in price. In order to keep supplies in balance with demand, a downward adjustment in acreage is required in view of the upward trend in yield per acre.

The 1956 acreage guide is 1,316,300 acres, 9 percent less than the 1,451,900 acres planted in 1955. For the summer commercial crop, the 1956 guide is 65,000 acres, 9 percent less than the 71,300 acres planted in 1955. The 1956 acreage guide for the 29 late States is 1,005,200 acres, 8 percent less than the 1,094,700 acres planted in 1955. The 1956 acreage guides for the winter and spring crops totaled 141,120 acres, 14 percent less than the 164,850 acres harvested in 1955.

The 1956 marketing guide is 342 million bushels, approximately 10 percent less than the 1955 crop of 382 million bushels. For the summer commercial crop, the 1956 acreage guide, assuming recent average yields by States, would result in a production of 15.4 million bushels compared to the 1955 crop of 18.6 million bushels. For the 29 late States, the 1956 acreage guide, assuming recent average yields by States, would result in a production of 275.4 million bushels compared to the 1955 crop of 300.8 million bushels. The 1956 acreage guides for the winter and spring crops were aligned with a production of 41.6 million bushels compared to the 1955 production of 51.7 million bushels. Non-commercial production in the early and intermediate States in 1956 is estimated at 10 million bushels.

The 1956 acreage guides by States are shown in the following tables.

1956 ACREAGE GUIDES

SUMMER AND LATE POTATOES WITH SUMMARY FOR FULL YEAR

Group and State	1956 Acreage Guide	Percentage Guide is of 1955 planted acreage	Group and State	1956 Acreage Guide	Percentage Guide is of 1955 planted acreage
	1,000 Acres	Percent		1,000 Acres	Percent
<u>Late States:</u>			<u>Summer Commercial</u>		
Maine	129.2	83	Virginia	22.9	92
New Hampshire	3.6	100	Maryland	3.4	100
Vermont	3.4	100	Delaware	6.2	75
Massachusetts	8.6	99	Kentucky	.7	100
Rhode Island	4.2	95	Missouri	.6	100
Connecticut	8.9	97	Kansas	.4	80
New York (L.I.)	51.3	95	Nebraska	1.5	100
New York, Upstate	42.0	100	Texas	6.2	75
Pennsylvania	60.0	100	Georgia	.7	100
West Virginia	13.0	100	New Jersey	22.4	99
9 Eastern	324.2	92	10 Summer	65.0	91
Ohio	22.0	100	Winter 1/	10.1	76*
Indiana	11.0	100	2/		
Illinois	4.0	100	Early Spring	19.4	77*
Michigan	49.2	100	2/		
Wisconsin	56.0	100	Late Spring	111.6	89*
Minnesota	77.5	92			
Iowa	6.0	100	Other 3/	105.0	96*
North Dakota	92.0	100			
South Dakota	10.5	100	U. S. Total,		
9 Central	328.2	98	All Seasons	1,316.3	91
Nebraska	19.5	100			
Montana	9.8	99			
Idaho	143.3	84			
Wyoming	6.6	96			
Colorado	53.6	94			
New Mexico	.7	100			
Utah	12.4	95			
Nevada	1.5	88			
Washington	29.2	75			
Oregon	36.3	89			
California	39.9	85			
11 Western	352.8	87			
29 Late States	1,005.2	92			

1/ Announced August 1955; 2/ Announced November 1955; 3/ Non-commercial acreage in early and intermediate states.
 * Percent of 1955 harvested acreage.

1956 ACREAGE-MARKETING GUIDES

WINTER AND SPRING POTATOES

State	: : 1956 : Acreage : Guide (Acres)	: : Percentage : guide is of 1955 : harvested : acreage (Percent)
<u>Winter:</u>		
Texas	500	100
Florida	9,600	75
Group total	10,100	76
<u>Early Spring:</u>		
Florida	19,190	77
Texas	250	100
Group total	19,440	77
<u>Late Spring:</u>		
California	56,400	82
Louisiana	4,585	99
Mississippi	500	77
Alabama	19,935	<u>1/</u> 72
Georgia	590	98
South Carolina	6,500	100
Arizona	3,720	78
Texas	3,190	84
Oklahoma	500	100
Arkansas	1,270	98
Tennessee	1,300	100
North Carolina	13,090	94
Group total	111,580	89
Total - Winter and Spring	141,120	86

1/ Percentage of 1955 planted acreage.

VI. COMPARISONS AND COMMENTS

The 1955 production totaled 381.6 million bushels of which 300.8 million bushels or 79 percent was produced in the late States, and 80.8 million bushels was produced in the early crop States. A record average yield of 271.3 bushels per acre was obtained, even though eleven of the more important areas of production had yields lower than those of the previous year. The 1955 crop was 25.6 million bushels larger than in 1954, and about 30 million bushels larger than the 4-year, 1951-54, average production. The 25.6 million bushel increase over last year represents about an extra month's supply based on current utilization.

Growers planted 1,451,900 acres, incurred a 3.1 percent acreage loss and harvested 1,406,900 acres. In 1954, growers harvested 1,408,100 acres. Significant planted acreage increases over the 1954 level occurred in Alabama, California, Florida, Idaho, and Washington. North Dakota had the largest acreage reduction. Yields were at relatively high levels in eastern and western areas, while adverse weather conditions brought relatively low yields in the Midwest.

Supplies have been fairly heavy since late in the spring of 1955 when volume marketings of the record high California spring crop commenced moving to market. The late spring and summer commercial production levels were appreciably larger than in 1954. Combined production totaled 60.2 million bushels, 26 percent more than the 1954 level of 47.9 million bushels. About 731,000 bushels were not marketed due to low prices.

For the 1955 early commercial crop, prices received by farmers declined as the marketing season progressed. Winter crop growers averaged \$2.45 per bushel; early spring, \$2.36; late spring, \$1.23; and summer, \$0.90. Early commercial crop prices averaged \$1.31 per bushel in 1955 compared to \$1.52 in 1954.

Certified seed production totaled 41.5 million bushels, 5 percent less than in 1954. Maine again led all States in production with 19.6 million bushels, followed by Minnesota with 4.6 million bushels, and North Dakota with 3.4 million. By varieties, Katahdin production ranked first with 13.9 million bushels, followed by Russet Burbank and Red Pontiac with 8 and 4.3 million bushels, respectively. Acreage for certification amounted to 129,446 acres, 5 percent less than in 1954.

World potato production is estimated at 10 percent less than in 1954. Dry weather lowered production in northern Europe though the crop was harvested under favorable conditions. The southern Europe crop is about normal size, while eastern Europe has 17 percent less than last season. The crop on the North American Continent is about 10 percent larger than in 1954.

29 Late States: The group harvested 1,061,800 acres in 1955 compared to 1,069,000 acres in 1954. A record high yield of 283 bushels per acre was obtained, 5 percent above 1954. Production totaled almost 301 million bushels, compared to 288 million bushels in 1954. The 1955 guide was 1,023,500 acres and was aligned with production of 272 million bushels.

9 Eastern States: The 1955 acreage for harvest was 348,500 acres, slightly less than in 1954, and about 125,000 acres less than the 1944-53 average. Yields average 334 bushels per acre, and second to the record of 342 bushels obtained in 1950. Production amounted to 116.4 million bushels, the highest since the 1950 crop of 128.6 million bushels. Maine's 155,000 acres and 415-bushel yield produced 64.3 million bushels, 55 percent of the group production and 16.9 percent of U. S. production. As compared to 1954, Long Island had slightly more acreage and slightly less production; New York, Up-state, continued the downward trend in acreage, and production was 10 percent less; Pennsylvania had an acreage equal to 1954, but production was down 6 percent. The 1955 guide for the group was 330,300 acres and was aligned with 100 million bushels of production. Maine is operating under a marketing order program and has diverted a heavy volume to starch plants.

9 Central States: Acreage and production were at record low levels in 1955. The 178-bushel yield was the lowest since 1949. The group harvested 320,100 acres, 7 percent less than that harvested in 1954. Production totaled 56.9 million bushels, 19 percent less than in 1954. The 1955 guide for the group was 326,100 acres and was aligned with a production of 60 million bushels. Hot, dry weather pulled down yields. North Dakota harvested 87,000 acres, 16,000 acres less than in 1954, and produced a crop one-third smaller. Minnesota and Michigan had production levels 16 and 20 percent less, respectively, than in 1954, while Wisconsin's production approximated that of last year. Marketings from the late summer crop areas returned low prices though prices strengthened for fall and winter supplies. Prices on red varieties, which constitute about half the production, are moderately higher than last season due to the smaller crop in the Red River Valley.

11 Western States: Acreage and production have shown an upward trend during the last four years. Growers harvested 393,200 acres, 5 percent more than in 1954, and only 7 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yields averaged 324 bushels per acre, second to the record yield of 328 bushels in 1952. Production totaled 127.5 million bushels and approximated the 1950 record. The 1955 guide was 367,000 acres and was aligned with a production of 112.4 million bushels. Idaho harvested 165,000 acres, ranking first in acreage in the Nation, and obtained a State record yield of 312 bushels per acre, and a record production of 51.6 million bushels, which represented 40 percent of the group production and 13.5 percent of U. S. production in 1955. Washington, Oregon, and California (late) production levels were record high even though low temperatures froze some undug fall potatoes in the 3 States and such quantities were not included in estimated production. Marketing difficulties and low prices were experienced in late summer marketing areas, while more orderly markets have prevailed for fall and winter crop marketings.

Summer Commercial States: The 10 States harvested 71,100 acres, 9 percent more than in 1954, but 29 percent less than the 1944-53 average. Yield averaged a near record high of 261 bushels per acre, and 48 bushels more than in 1954. Production totaled 18.6 million bushels, 4.7 million bushels more than in

1954. Virginia and New Jersey production levels were 39 and 13 percent more, respectively, than in 1954. Delaware and Texas registered appreciable gains in production compared to the previous season. The 1955 guide for the group was 63,200 acres. About half a million bushels of the crop was not marketed due to low prices. Farm prices averaged 90 cents per bushel, appreciably less than last season and 1944-53 average. A fairly heavy volume of late spring crop marketings overlapped into the summer marketing season and contributed to the excess supply and the resultant low price situation.

Potato Diversion Program: On August 26, 1955, the Department announced a diversion program for 1955 crop potatoes. Payments for potatoes moving to starch, feed, and flour outlets were scheduled at 50 cents per hundredweight through December 31, 1955; 40 cents per hundredweight through March 31, 1956; and 30 cents per hundredweight during the remainder of the season, or to June 30, 1956. Payments are being made for potatoes of a minimum of 2 inches in diameter and of U. S. No. 2 or better quality. As of January 1956, diversion programs were in effect in 8 States - Maine, Idaho, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Pennsylvania, and California.

Potato Import-Export Activity: Practically all the potatoes imported into the United States originate in Canada. The bulk of these imports is seed stock. Canada also takes the bulk of our exports, though appreciable quantities have moved to Cuba. In 1954-55 U. S. imports represented less than 0.5 percent of our domestic supply, while exports represented about 2 percent. The rate of import duty is 37.5 cents per hundredweight on the first 2.5 million bushels of seed and 1.0 million bushels of table stock entering during the quota year beginning September 15. The table stock quota is increased by the amount the domestic crop is below 350 million bushels (based on the September 1 estimate of crop production). Potatoes entering after the respective quotas are filled incur a duty of 75 cents per hundredweight. The Canadian duty is 37.5 cents per hundredweight on potatoes imported from June 15 to July 31; potatoes enter free of duty at other times.

The following table summarizes foreign trade in potatoes during the past 5 seasons:

POTATOES: United States, Imports and Exports, 1950-55

Year	Year Beginning October 1						
	Imports				Exports		
	Canada						
	Seed	Table	Other	Total	Canada	Other	Total
	-----1,000 bushels-----						
1950-51	3,182	2,181	--	5,363	949	3,641	4,590
1951-52	1,315	283	652	2,250	3,718	2,744	6,462
1952-53	1,891	1,403	1	3,295	2,368	2,454	4,822
1953-54	1,651	1,288	1/	2,939	2,181	2,265	4,446
1954-55	1,226	349	177	1,752	5,077	1,971	7,048

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

VII. SUMMARY FOR LATE CROP PRODUCTION AREAS

Maine: During 1951-55, an average of 144,200 acres was planted, including 100,000 acres in 1951 and 155,000 acres in 1955. The current acreage level approximates that of the 1935-40 period. Yields have shown considerable fluctuation during the past six years, ranging from 314 to 480 bushels per acre. The 1955 yield of 415 bushels was higher than average. During 1951-54 production averaged about 52 million bushels, or 19 percent less than the 64.3 million bushels produced in 1955. The 1952-55 production levels were generally in excess of food and seed demands. Combined food and seed shipments during 1951-54 averaged about 48,000 carlot equivalents (42,000 pounds) per season, or about 34 million bushels. An average of 3.5 million bushels were used for seed and food on farms where grown, and additional quantities were processed for food within the State. The apparent demand for Maine potatoes in food and seed markets approximates 40 million bushels per marketing season. The size of the Maine crop greatly influences potato price levels in the Nation's markets during the late crop marketing season. Through January 7, 1956, Maine growers had diverted 6.5 million bushels of the 1955 crop to starch and livestock feed outlets. About two-thirds of the crop is usually marketed after January 1. January 1 stocks in relation to production have tended to increase in recent years. The 1956 acreage guide is 129,200 acres, or 17 percent less than that planted in 1955.

New York - Long Island: The acreage level has remained relatively stable in the past 5 years, averaging 52,400 acres; 54,000 acres were planted in 1955. The 1955 yield of 345 bushels per acre was slightly above average. Yields during the past six seasons ranged from 300 to 370 bushels. The 1951-54 production averaged 17.1 million bushels, while 1955 production was 19.2 million bushels. The bulk of the crop is marketed from July to December and moves to eastern markets. During 1951-54, shipments averaged about 24,000 carlot equivalents (38,000 pounds) per season, or about 15.2 million bushels. On the average about 3,000 carlots are exported. The apparent demand for Long Island potatoes approximates 15 million bushels per marketing season. Long Island supplies can be sold at a lower mark-up in Mid-Atlantic markets than is possible with supplies from Maine, because of the differential in cost of transportation. Volume movement of supplies from Maine to this area is usually delayed until Long Island supplies are about depleted. The 1956 acreage guide is 51,300 acres, or 5 percent less than that planted in 1955.

New York - Upstate: Acreage has reflected a downward trend during the past 20 years. The 1951-54 average was 51,000 acres; 42,000 acres were planted in 1955. During the past 3 seasons Long Island has had more acreage than the Upstate area. Since 1948 yields have remained relatively stable, ranging from 250 to 275 bushels per acre. During the past 4 years, 1952-55, yield averaged 262 bushels per acre. Production has reflected a downward trend since 1948. The 1951-54 production averaged 13.1 million bushels, while 11.1 million bushels were produced in 1955. The bulk of the crop moves by truck to local markets though appreciable quantities are processed for food. About 60 percent of the supply is marketed by January 1. The decline in the area's acreage can be traced to relatively low yields, variable quality, increase in

production costs, opportunities for alternative farm enterprises, and market pressures exerted by Pennsylvania and Long Island supplies. The 1956 acreage guide is 42,000 acres, or equal to that planted in 1955.

Pennsylvania: Acreage has trended downward since 1943. During 1951-54 an average of 64,000 acres was planted compared to 60,000 acres in 1955. In 1945 the State had 135,000 acres. From 1950-55 yields ranged from 207 to 246 bushels per acre averaging about 230 bushels. Production has also shown a downward trend the past 10 seasons. During 1951-54 production averaged 14.5 million bushels, while the 1955 crop was 13.6 million bushels. The bulk of the crop is trucked to market with 60 percent usually marketed by January 1. Similar to the Upstate New York area the declining trend in acreage is due to low yields, variable quality, and opportunities for alternative farming enterprises. The 1956 acreage guide is 60,000 acres, or equal to that planted in 1955.

Michigan: In 1934 and 1935, the State planted 332,000 acres, and was second to Minnesota in national ranking. During the past two decades acreage declined sharply, averaging only 57,000 acres in 1951-54, and 49,200 acres in 1955. Yields ranged from 162 to 196 bushels during the past 6 seasons. Production in the early 1930's approximated 25 million bushels, while the 1951-54 average was 10.5 million bushels. The 1955 production of 7.8 million bushels was record low. The bulk of the crop is sold in the fall and early winter, being trucked to local markets. The 1956 acreage guide is 49,200 acres, or equal to that planted in 1955.

Wisconsin: Similarly to the acreage levels in other central States, Wisconsin's acreage declined sharply during the 1930's and 1940's, but has tended to stabilize since 1950. During 1951-54 an average of 57,250 acres was planted while 56,000 acres were planted in 1955. Yields averaged 205 bushels per planted acre during 1950-55, and 214 bushels during 1952-55. During 1951-54 production averaged 11.9 million bushels, while the 1955 crop was 11.4 million bushels. About one-third of the 1955 crop was for late summer harvest. The 1956 acreage guide is 56,000 acres, or equal to that planted in 1955.

Minnesota: During 1951-54 an average of 78,000 acres was planted, while 84,000 acres were planted in 1955. In 1932, the State had almost 390,000 acres and was first in national ranking. The bulk of the acreage is located in the Red River Valley area, adjoining the North Dakota production area. Yields are below national average and during 1950-55 ranged from 147 to 200 bushels per planted acre. During 1951-54 production averaged 13.3 million bushels compared to the 14 million bushel crop of 1955. Rail movement approximated 10,000 cars per season during 1951-54. About half the crop is marketed by January 1. The 1956 acreage guide is 77,500 acres, or 8 percent less than that planted in 1955.

North Dakota: During 1951-55 the State's acreage ranged from 73,000 to 104,000 acres. The 92,000 acres planted in 1955 reflected a 12 percent

reduction from the 1954 level. During 1951-55 yields averaged 174 bushels per acre. Both Minnesota and North Dakota had low yields in 1955 due to adverse weather. The 1951-54 production averaged 16.4 million bushels, while 13.5 million bushels were produced in 1955. Rail movement during 1951-54 averaged about 16,500 carlots per season with about half of the supply usually marketed by January 1. The bulk of the State's production consists of the round, red variety. The 1956 acreage guide is 92,000 acres, or equal to that planted in 1955.

Idaho: During 1951-54 an average of 145,000 acres was planted, while 171,000 acres were planted in 1955. The 1955 acreage was the third highest level recorded. Yields ranged from 268 to 301 bushels per planted acre during 1950-55. The 1955 yield was record high as was the production of 51.6 million bushels. During 1951-54 production averaged 41.7 million bushels. Idaho is the largest producer of the Russet Burbank variety. From the 1954 crop, Idaho shipped almost 48,000 carlot equivalents or about 29 million bushels. Additional quantities were used by food processors located within the State. About half the crop is moved by January 1. The 1956 acreage guide is 143,300 acres, or 16 percent less than that planted in 1955.

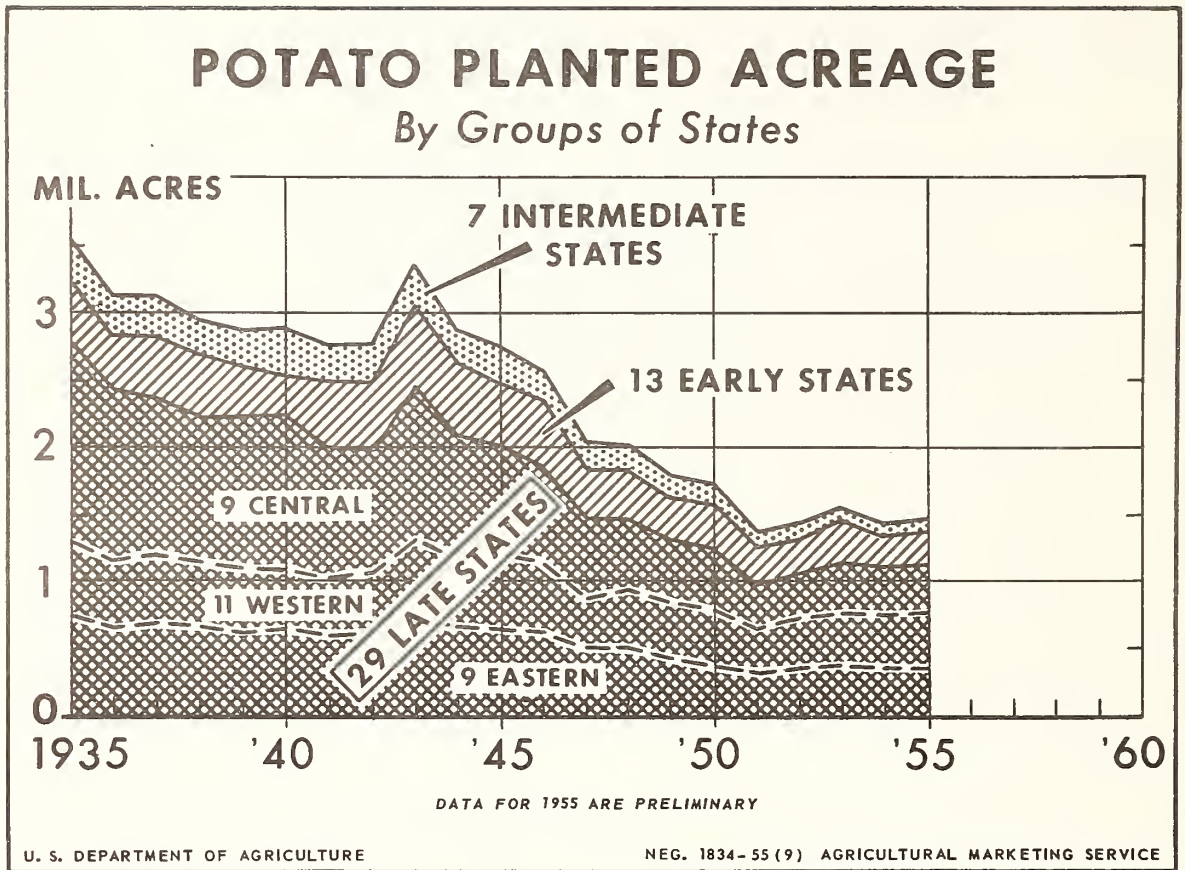
Colorado: During 1951-54 an average of 54,000 acres was planted compared to 57,000 acres in 1955. Current acreage is appreciably less than the 1945 level when 92,000 acres were planted. Yields averaged 315 bushels per planted acre during 1951-54, while a relatively low yield of 281 bushels was obtained in 1955. A record high yield of 377 bushels was recorded in 1952. During 1951-54 production averaged 17 million bushels compared to 16 million bushels in 1955. The 1954 season shipments totaled 21,300 carlots with about two-thirds of the crop disposed of by January 1. The State operates under a marketing agreement and order program. A starch plant was put in operation during the 1954 season. The 1956 guide is 53,600 acres, or 6 percent less than that planted in 1955.

Washington: During 1951-54 an average of 28,000 acres was planted. In 1955, acreage increased to 39,000 acres due mainly to an increase in the Columbia Basin area. Last year almost half the acreage was for late summer harvest. Average yield is near the highest in the Nation. During 1951-54 yields averaged 408 bushels per acre while the 1955 yield was 391 bushels. The 1951-54 production averaged 11.3 million bushels while 15.3 million bushels were produced in 1955. During 1951-54 rail shipments approximated 9,000 carlots per season. The 1955 truck shipments approximated 3,000 carlot equivalents as of late December. About 85 percent of the crop is marketed by January 1, with the marketing season starting in July. The State operates under a marketing agreement and order program, and has starch processing facilities. The 1956 acreage guide is 29,200 acres, or 25 percent less than that planted in 1955.

Oregon: Acreage has trended upward since 1951. The 1951-54 average was 36,000 acres, while 41,000 acres were planted in 1955. About one-third of the acreage was for late summer harvest in 1955. During 1950-55 yields

ranged from 320 to 345 bushels per planted acre. The 1951-54 production averaged 11.9 million bushels, while 13.8 million bushels were produced in 1955. Rail shipments approximate 10,000 carlots per season. In 1954, an additional 3,800 carlot equivalents were moved by truck. The 1956 acreage guide is 36,300 acres, or 11 percent less than that planted in 1955.

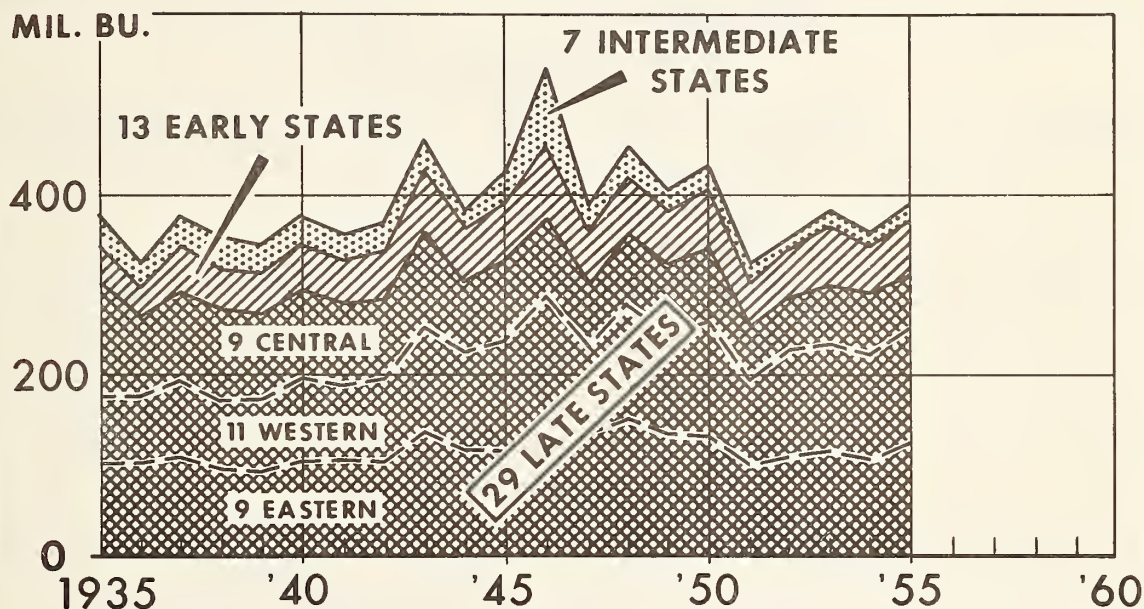
California (Late): An average of 41,000 acres was planted during 1951-54, while 47,000 acres were planted in 1955. Acreage has trended upward since 1951. From 1950 to 1955, yields ranged from 360 to 430 bushels per acre averaging about 380 bushels. The 1951-54 production averaged 15.3 million bushels, while 17.9 million bushels were produced in 1955. The late production areas are located in both the northern and southern portions of the State. The 1956 guide is 39,000 acres, or 15 percent less than that planted in 1955.



From 1935 to 1951, the acreage planted to potatoes has decreased sharply. Since 1951 acreage had tended to stabilize. The 1951-55 average of 1,441,000 acres was 54 percent less than the 1935-39 average of 3,123,000 acres. The acreage in the 9 central late States has shown the sharpest decline. During the period, 1935-39, the 9 central States planted 37 percent of the total acreage for the country, but by 1955, plantings in these States averaged only 23 percent of the total acreage. This decrease in relative importance of acreage in the 9 central States has been offset by relative increases in the western, eastern, and early States. The relative importance of acreage in the intermediate state group has decreased since 1935. A sharp upward trend in yield has accompanied the decrease in acreage with the result that production has remained about constant, and in most instances has been equal to or in excess of national requirements.

POTATO PRODUCTION

By Groups of States



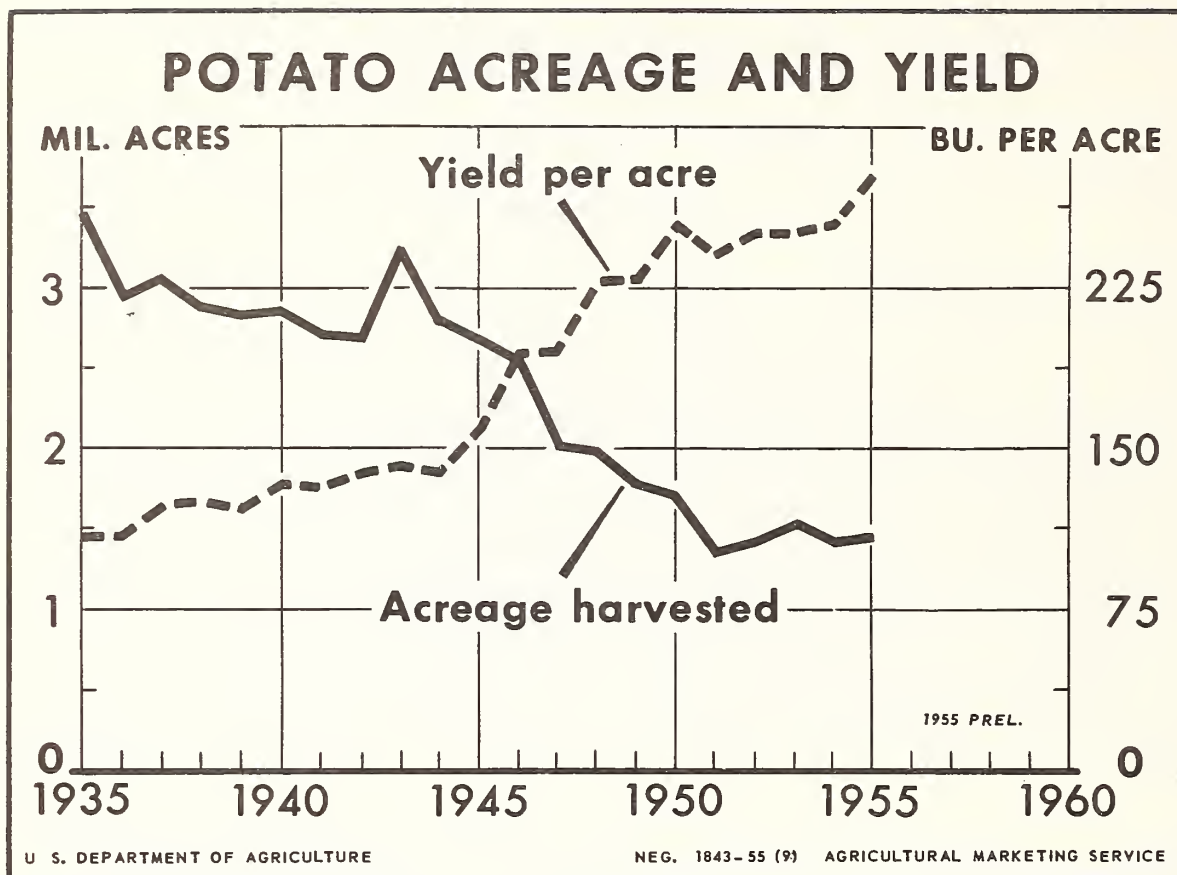
DATA FOR 1955 ARE PRELIMINARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1835-55 (9), AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

During 1951-55 potato production averaged 357.5 million bushels, which quantity was approximately equal to the 1935-39 average production of 355.5 bushels. During the period, 1943 to 1951, production exceeded the 400-million-bushel mark six times. Production levels were influenced by World War II food needs and by price support measure. Production levels showed no definite trend from 1935 to 1955. However, acreage declined by more than 50 percent and yields increased sharply. During the 1951-55 period, about 79 percent of the crop was produced in the late States, 16 percent in the early States and 5 percent in the intermediate States. In the late group of States, the 11 western States produced 32 percent, the 9 eastern States produced 30 percent, and the 9 central States produced 17 percent of the crop.

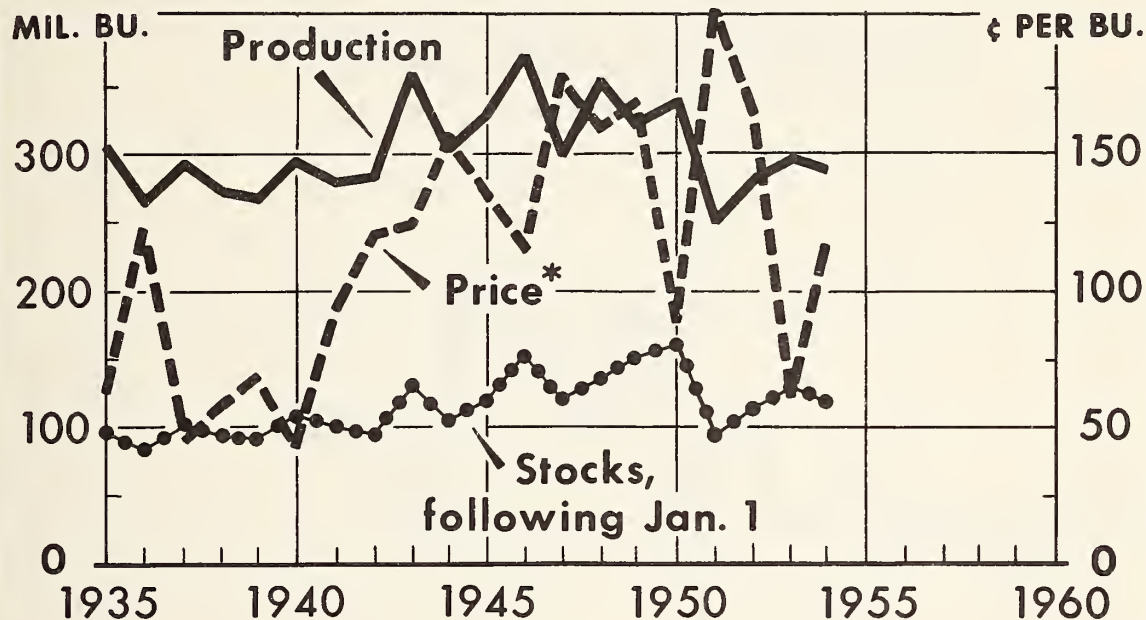
The acreage recommended for the 1956 crop will, with average yields, produce about 342 million bushels of potatoes. The quantity is believed sufficient to meet market demands during the 1956-57 marketing season.



Statistics on potatoes have been recorded since 1866. In that year 1.2 million acres were recorded, the average yield was 91 bushels per acre, and production totaled 111.6 million bushels. Acreage increased gradually and reached a record of 3.9 million acres in 1922. From 1935 to 1955 the acreage planted to potatoes declined more than 50 percent. During the period from 1951-55, acreage averaged about 1.4 million acres, only slightly more than in 1866. In the period 1935-39, the average yield per acre was 147 bushels. In 1955 yields averaged 271.3 bushels per acre, or nearly double the 1935-39 average. An acre of potatoes now produces nearly twice as much as an acre did in 1940. One acre now produces the annual needs for about 125 consumers.

LATE POTATOES

Production, Stocks, and Price, 29 Late States



*JAN.-MAR. AV. PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS

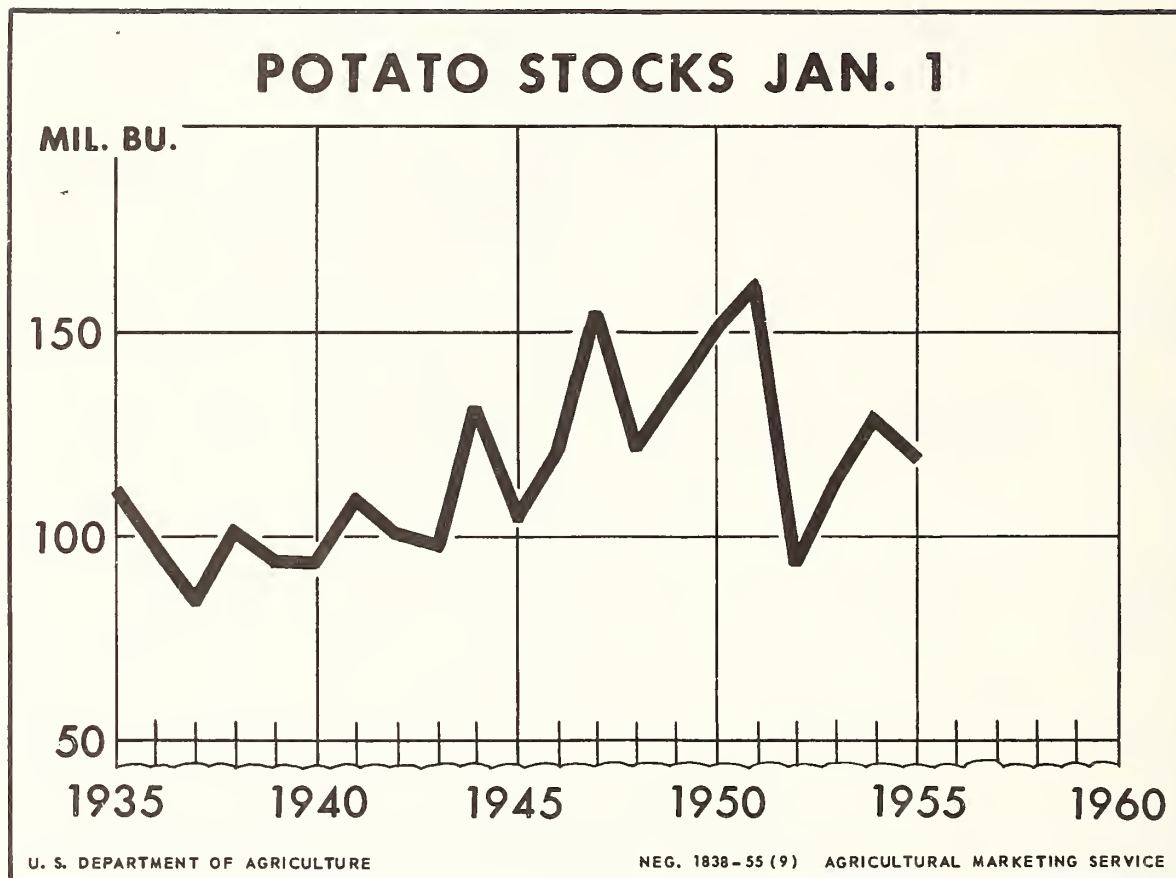
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1840-55 (9) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Annual variation in the level of potato production in the 29 late States usually results in a proportionate variation in the level of January 1 merchantable stocks. In recent years January 1 stocks averaged about 40 percent of the production with extremes occurring in the 1950 and 1951 crops. As could be expected, average price received by farmers for potatoes during the January-March period reflects an inverse relationship to the level of stocks; relatively low stocks result in relatively high prices.

The following table summarizes January 1 merchantable stocks and the January, February, March average of prices received by farmers and those prices expressed as percentage of parity during the last 4 years:

Year	: January 1 : Stocks <u>Million Bushels</u>	: January-March : Average Farm Price <u>\$ per Bushel</u>	: Percent of : Parity <u>Percent</u>
1952	94	2.01	116
1953	113	1.64	99
1955	123	1.16	79
1954	128	.62	41



Estimates of January 1 merchantable stocks include all potatoes which are held by growers and local dealers and which are available for sale for tablestock, seed, livestock, starch, and other uses. Culls to be sold to starch plants or to be fed to livestock are included in the estimates of merchantable stocks. The estimates do not include potatoes kept by producers for food, seed, or feed, neither do they include losses for the remainder of the season through shrinkage, decay, and waste.

From 1935 to 1950 January 1, merchantable stocks showed an upward trend. When growers made a sharp cut in production in 1951, the stocks of potatoes on hand on January 1, 1952 amounted to 94 million bushels which was the lowest since January 1, 1940. The amount of potatoes on hand on January 1, and the production in the winter and spring commercial crop areas are the principle factors determining prices during the six months, from January through June.

